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DATE: October 11, 2004

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TO: Examiner Elini M. Mantis Mercader USPTO, Group Art Unit 3737	703-872-9306	

FROM: Michael J. Bolan michael.bolan@bingham.com	(714) 830-0700	(714) 433-0606
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PAGES: (INCLUDING THIS COVER PAGE): 17

RE: US Patent Appl. No. 09/128,304
Filing Date: August 3, 1998
Inventor: N. Parker Willis, et al.
Confirmation No. 2536
Group Art Unit: 3737

MESSAGE:

Dear Examiner Mantis Mercader:

Please find attached proposed claim amendments for the above-identified case. Claims 1, 2, 7, 15, 16, 22, 23, 28, 29, 31, 38, 39, 40, and 48-60 have been amended. Independent claims 1, 15, 23, 31, 38, 48, 56, 59, and 60 have been amended to focus on the "transformation" language, which inherently requires the model deformation to be based on the previous model. My understanding is that this limitation is what you believe differentiates Budd. Of course, if this is incorrect, I would be willing to discuss this matter. Amendments to the remaining claims were either made to carry the "transformation" language through to the dependent claims or to fix typographical errors or inconsistencies in claim form.

Please feel free to call me at (714) 830-0600 if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards,

Michael Bolan

For transmission problems, please call (714) 830-0600

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